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FOREST PEST REPORTER

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GYPSY MOTH SPRAYING LOWEST IN 28 YEARS

Beginning on or about May 6 the Department will be treating the smallest acreage since since the Cooperative Gypsy Moth Suppression Program began 28 years ago. A total of 760 acres in two municipalities and one county park are scheduled for treatment.

The gypsy moth reached its highest infestation level in New Jersey in 1981 when over 798,000 acres were defoliated by this pest. The most acreage ever treated in one year was in 1983 when the Department cooperated with 105 municipalities in the treatment of nearly 94,000 acres.

During the past year the Department received requests for gypsy moth surveys from a total of 17 municipalities and five county park systems. A total of 237,000 acres of forest lands were surveyed for gypsy moth infestations. Of the towns and parks surveyed, five municipalities and one park system, involving 1,245 acres, had areas with sufficient infestation to qualify for treatment. Of this number, two municipalities and one park have requested participation in the aerial spray program. These are Southampton Township (250 acres) in Burlington County, and Lakewood Township (120 acres) in Ocean County and Jamesburg Park (390 acres) . This brings the total acreage to be treated for gypsy moth to 760.

All areas will be aerially treated with one application of *Bacillus thuringiensis*, at a dosage rate of 30 B.I.U.'s or 80 ounces (undiluted formulation) per acre. The state Treasury Department allowed an extension of the current contract with Downstown Aero Crop Service of Vineland, New Jersey at the bid price of $11.90 per acre.

FIRST RELEASE OF HEMLOCK WOOLLY ADELGID PREDATORS TO BEGIN IN MAY

The numbers of *Pseudoscymnus tsugae*, an imported predatory beetle of the hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA), has increased markedly. Within the past month, the Department's Phillip Alampi Beneficial Insect Laboratory (PABIL) reared beetles, have more than doubled to bring the total in storage to 33,000. While weekly production of new beetles has reached 5,000, there are indications that this amount may grow still higher before reaching maximum capacity.

Performance of the *Pseudoscymnus* colony over the past four months has been particularly encouraging in light of the fact that this quantity of hemlock adelgid predators have never been available in theUnited States before. With the numbers of beetles presently in storage and the prospect of continued weekly growth in reserves, New Jersey is in a unique position among

researchers to begin evaluating the potential of *Pseudoscymnus* for controlling the hemlock woolly adelgid.

Four release sites in northern NJ have been selected for the release of P. *tsugae*, a predacious ladybeetle. One site, Wawayanda State Park, will be used for a dispersal study which the PABIL will be doing in collaboration with Dr. Mark McClure of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station. The other three sites Jenny Jump, Stokes and Kittatinny Valley State Forests, will be used to test the effectiveness of the beetle at three different population densities of the HWA. One of the plots will be in an area where the HWA has been present for a long time. The trees are stressed in that area and the objective is to see if the beetles will have an impact on the HWA population allowing the trees to recover. With the help of George Koeck, a state forester, the Department has received permission to set up the plots on state lands. Releases should begin the first week of May.

EXOTIC WOOD BORERS DETECTED IN NEW BRUNSWICK WAREHOUSE

A USDA APHIS PPQ review of shipping manifests on cargo originating in China resulted in an inspection of a shipment of fitness equipment packed in wood crating in a New Brunswick warehouse. The inspection detected an infestation of wood boring beetles, *Ceresium sp.*, in the wood crating throughout the 10,000 sq. ft. warehouse. Not only were the recently imported containers infested , but further inspection revealed the presence of the beetle in crating that had been in the warehouse for approximately four years. The beetle belongs to the same family as the Asian long horned beetle that was detected in New York in 1996. Long horned beetles can be a very serious pest of forest and shade trees; establishment of the pest could create serious problems for nursery and forest industries and also homeowners. The USDA has required the warehouse tenant to fumigate the wood crating. NJDA, in cooperation with the USDA, will place insect traps in the surrounding area to determine if an infestation has developed outside the warehouse.

COOPERATIVE AGRICULTURAL PEST SURVEY PROGRAM BEGINS TRAPPING FOR FOREIGN BARK BEETLES

The Department has placed 10 survey traps for *Ips typographus* and *Hylurgus ligniperda* , two species of foreign bark beetles, in sites in North Bergen, NJ.

Ips typographus, the European spruce bark beetle, was found by USDA, APHIS, PPQ officers in crates at an importer in North Bergen. The traps are being operated jointly by USDA, APHIS, PPQ and the Department. These traps are in addition to 10 traps placed by the Department surrounding the port area in Camden.

Bark beetles are frequently intercepted in dunnage and crating associated with shipments of steel and other materials from foreign countries arriving at seaports in the Northeast. *Ips typographus* is a serious pest of spruce and pine in Europe and Asia.

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